

Remarks

Sheet 1 of the drawings has been replaced with a replacement sheet in which reference to “AE1a” has been deleted. Page 4 of the specification has been amended in line 2 to delete “AV1a” and in line 7, to delete “desk” and insert “tier.” In addition, the claims of record have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 45 through 53, which more clearly define the invention and distinguish the same over the several references of record taken either singularly or in combination. Since such newly submitted claims do not recite drawing references, it further is submitted that such claims render moot the rejection to the previous set of claims for inaccurate drawing references. Favorable consideration of the newly submitted claims respectfully is requested in view of the following comments.

Each of the newly submitted claims provides for a structure comprising a retaining wall including a plurality of support components stacked in tiers, at least two of the tiers including at least two anchor components spaced from a support component and each other, interconnected by force transmitting, rigid tie rods and a granular filler material disposed between the components wherein each of the tie rods is pivotally connected at each end thereof to one of the support and anchor components. With respect to Hammer, it is to be noted that the structure disclosed therein provides no force transmitting, rigid tie rods interconnecting any face block 24 or block 36, nor any pivotal connection of any force transmitting, tie rod with any of such blocks. With respect to Babcock, cited as a teaching of the use of force transmitting, rigid tie rods interconnecting blocks of a retaining wall structure, it is to be noted that the tie rod as illustrated in Figure 6a thereof is not pivotally connected at the ends thereof to a pair of spaced blocks as recited in the newly submitted claims. It particularly is to be noted with respect to tie rod 63, that one end 68 of the rod is threaded into a coupler 60 embedded in a block member, an anchor

nut 80 is threaded on the other tie rod end 66 to pretension the rod and such nut is covered with grout 82 and thus permanently fixed in a block member, and the tie rod only is capable of flexing within an inner sleeve 72 received at one end thereof within an outer sleeve 74. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is invited to the first full paragraph in column 12 of Babcock.

The newly submitted claims further distinguish over the several references of record in providing for the anchor components having T-shaped or U-shaped cross-sectional configurations, the tie rods being pivotally connected to interim portions of anchor components having T-shaped cross-sectional configurations or to the leg portions of anchor components having U-shaped configurations, and planar sheets disposed between tiers of tie connected support and anchor components having openings overlying interconnecting tie rods.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the newly submitted claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Lalos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter N. Lalos
Registration No. 19,789
STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, LLP
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20036-5610

November 13, 2007
PNL:cb
202/785-0100

REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEET